

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Tae-ahn Jahng Confirmation No.: 4949  
Application No.: 10/798,014 Art Unit: 3733  
Filed: 03/10/2004 Examiner: Hoffman, Mary  
Attorney Docket No: 001227.1368  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FLEXIBLE FIXATION OF A SPINE

**AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 24, 2008**

**Mail Stop AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Madam:

Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136: it is respectfully requested that the time for response to the Non Final Office Action dated December 24, 2008 be extended for a period of three (3) months from March 24, 2009 to June 24, 2009. The fee for this extension is believed to be \$1,110.00. The Commissioner is authorized to charge this and any other fee which may now or hereafter be due in this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

In response to the Office Action of the United States Patent and Trademark Office dated December 24, 2008, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Amendment

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this Amendment

*Examiner Hoffman is thanked for the courtesy extended during the Examiner Interview held on June 18, 2009. Per a discussion between the Examiner, Mr. Dennis Butler, Mr. Jude Paganelli and the Undersigned, independent claims 1, 15, 24 and newly added independent claim 39 are believed to be allowable.*